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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
Alexandria, Virginia
December 15, 2004

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Paul J. McNulty, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, announced that a federal grand jury in Alexandria has returned an eight-count indictment charging two MS-13 gang members, Alirio Reyes, also known as "Seco," and Osmin Heriberto Alfaro-Fuentes, also known as "Buso," with murder in aid of racketeering, and with committing attempted murder and aggravated assault in aid of racketeering. Reyes and Alfaro-Fuentes are also charged with using a firearm in connection with these crimes. Arraignment is scheduled for December 22, 2004, before the Honorable T.S. Ellis, III, United States District Court Judge.

The indictment stems from a shooting in Herndon, Virginia, on the night of May 16, 2004. Reyes and Alfaro-Fuentes confronted two adolescents on Park Avenue in Herndon, Virginia, shooting and killing a 17-year-old male juvenile, and shooting and seriously injuring a 16-year-old female juvenile. The juvenile victims did not know Reyes or Alfaro-Fuentes. After the shooting, Reyes and Alfaro-Fuentes fled Virginia and traveled to Los Angeles, California. Through the investigative efforts of the United States Marshals Capital Area Regional Fugitive Task Force and Herndon Police Department, Reyes and Alfaro-Fuentes were located in Los Angeles and arrested by the United States Marshals Los Angeles Regional Fugitive Task Force.

The indictment charges Reyes and Alfaro-Fuentes as members of the violent street gang known as the Mara Salvatrucha or MS-13. MS-13's membership spans throughout the United States and Central America. The indictment specifically charges Reyes and Alfaro-Fuentes with committing these crimes to maintain or increase their respective positions within MS-13, as well as to promote the gang and its reputation for violence.

U.S. Attorney McNulty stated, "Gang violence is a grave concern to all of us, and federal, state and local law enforcement are teamed up to stop it. With more investigative and intelligence resources on the way, and the continued use of tough federal anti-racketeering laws, Northern Virginians have good reason to be optimistic."

"This has been a collaborative effort from day one. The resources of our local, state, and federal partners proved invaluable and very instrumental in bringing this investigation to this point. All are to be commended for the seamless way in which resources were brought together in identifying and locating the suspects," said Herndon Police Chief Toussaint E. Summers, Jr. "We are all working together in an unprecedented manner to crack down on gang activity. These indictments send a clear message to gang members that their violent activities will not be tolerated. Law enforcement and prosecutors at all levels across this country are committed to working together to bring violators to justice and protect local communities." Summers is also

Chairman of the Northern Virginia Regional Gang Task Force, a multi-jurisdictional, multi-discipline, effort to combat gang-related crime through suppression, prevention and intervention.

This case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, Northern Virginia Regional Gang Task Force, United States Marshals Capital Area Regional Fugitive Task Force, and the Herndon and Fairfax County Police Departments. Assistant United States Attorneys Morris Parker and Patrick Stokes are handling the case for the United States.

It should be remembered that a defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty.

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